loan assistance of 2.85 billion Yen was signed with the Japanese Government in November, 1985 for covering the purchase and installation of six numbers of 200 MW reversible turbo-generation for the river bed power house of the Sardar Sarovar Project. Out of this, an amount of 2.606 billion Yen has already been utilised. A proposal for additional loan assistance of 17 billion Yen for 1990-91 was not agreed to by the Government of Japan. Efforts are being made to get this proposal approved in the next year's loan package.

Chigargunta Gold Mines

*406. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chigargunta Gold bearing block located in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh was handed over to Mineral Exploration Corportion Limited by Bharat Gold Mines Limited in 1981 alongwith 79 workers and machinery for completing exploratory mining;

(b) whether the MECL have completed exploratory mining in July 1990 and offered to handover the on-going mine with 79 workers to the Bharat Gold Mines Limited;

(c) whether BGML have expressed their inability to take back the workers;

(d) whether it is a fact that BGML have recruited 90 workers afresh on the 3rd July, 1990; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) While Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was doing exploratory work earlier at Mallapakonda and Chigargunta Block No. 1 Gold Prospects (located in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh), Government decided that all detailed mineral exploration should be carried out by Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL). Accordingly, MECL took over the exploratory work from BGML in 1981, as a promotional project. At the time of taking over this project for exploration, MECL had also taken into employment around 70 contingent mine workers who were earlier employed by the contractors when the project was under exploration by BGML.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In order to expedite the exploration work for early evaluation of exploration data and taking of investment decision, MECL also entrusted a part of this work at Chigargunta to BGML in 1986, who also engaged both its own permanent employees and 97 local labour through contractors. These local labourers were new persons and not the contingent employees taken over by MECL in 1981. Since BGML, on completion of exploration, took up development and mining operations, they regularised 81 workers in July, 1990, out of the above 97 contract labour employed since 1986, after negotiations with the local unions, though it had a surplus work force of its own. This has brought the total strength of regular workers of BGML to 540, which is more than adequate for the level of mining operations now being carried out by BGML. BGML, which is incurring heavy losses, has already surplus work force who have to be provided gainful employment and, hence, the Company is not in a position to absorb any further labour.

MECL having completed the exploration, moved the Ministry of Labour under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for permission to close the project as a temporary industrial establishment in May, 1990. Ministry of Labour passed orders in July, 1990, after having been satisfied that there was no scope for absorbing the workers proposed to be retrenched as a result of closure of the project, in the other projects of MECL or BGML in their present project.

'Rent-a-Car Scheme'

*407. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the Indian companies which have been permitted to